



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FEDS GIVE UPDATE ON “MASSIVE” CROSS-BORDER DRUG TUNNEL *Cement lined passage linked warehouses in Tijuana and Otay Mesa*

SAN DIEGO – The investigation continues today into what is believed to be the longest cross-border tunnel ever discovered linking the United States and Mexico. This morning, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents obtained a search warrant for an Otay Mesa warehouse that sits atop an opening to a cement-lined passage extending under the border to a warehouse in Tijuana, Mexico.

ICE agents, accompanied by agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Border Patrol, have been on the scene all day at a warehouse in an Otay Mesa industrial park. The front of the warehouse on Siempre Viva Road has a sign saying V & F Distributors. Beneath the building, agents located a steep shaft leading to a lighted, ventilated tunnel the length of eight football fields. Inside the tunnel on the U.S. side, investigators discovered several hundred pounds of marijuana.

Meanwhile, after receiving a lead from U.S. investigators, federal police in Mexico obtained a warrant last night to search the Tijuana warehouse thought to conceal the tunnel’s other entrance. There, Mexican police recovered more than two tons of marijuana, stacked in bales.

The tunnel discovery is the result of a long-term investigation by the San Diego Tunnel Task Force, made up of agents from ICE, DEA, and CBP Border Patrol. The Task Force is using an array of high-tech equipment and intelligence information to pinpoint the location of underground passageways along the border in the region. Since 9/11, federal authorities have discovered more than 20 cross-border tunnels along the U.S.-Mexico border in California and Arizona.

“Whether they are designed to smuggle drugs, people, weapons or other contraband, these tunnels pose a threat to our nation’s security,” said Michael Unzueta, special agent in charge for ICE investigations in San Diego. “ICE is committed to working with our law enforcement partners to dismantle the tunnels and the criminal organizations behind them.”

The investigation into the cross-border tunnel is ongoing and no arrests have yet been made. CBP’s forensic lab is assisting with fingerprint analysis and DNA sampling. ICE’s cybercrimes unit is conducting a computer forensic analysis.

ICE